

REMARKS

The rejections presented in the Final Office Action dated September 29, 2004 have been considered.

Claims 1 and 3-5 are amended to clarify the invention and for the purpose of expediting prosecution.

Claims 7-14 and 15-19 are canceled without prejudice, and claims 2, 15, and 20-22 were previously canceled. New claims 23-29 are added to claim the invention in alternative language.

Claims 1, 3-6, and 23-29 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action does not establish that claims 1, 4-7, 11-14, 16, 17, and 19 are unpatentable under 35 USC §103(a) over US patent number 6,264,104 to Jenkins et al. (hereinafter "Jenkins"). The rejection is respectfully traversed because *prima facie* obviousness is not established. However, the claims have been either amended or canceled for the purpose of expediting prosecution, and the rejection is now moot.

Claims 3 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jenkins as applied to claims 1 and 12 and further in view of US patent number 6,145,739 to Bertina et al. hereinafter "Bertina"). The rejection is respectfully traversed because *prima facie* obviousness is not established. However, the claims have been either amended or canceled for the purpose of expediting prosecution, and the rejection is now moot.


Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jenkins in view of US patent 6,000,608 to Dorf (hereinafter "Dorf"). The rejection is respectfully traversed because *prima facie* obviousness is not established. However, the claims have been canceled for the purpose of expediting prosecution, and the rejection is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested. If the examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is welcome.

No extension of time is believed to be necessary for consideration of this response. However, if an extension of time is required, please consider this a petition for a sufficient number of months for consideration of this response. If there are any additional fees in connection with this response, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0996 (HPCO.040PA).

Respectfully submitted,

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